

## REPLACEMENT ABSTRACT

A data processing apparatus, comprising data storage having a plurality of defined storage elements, memory containing usage data indicating which of said storage elements contains data, and a processor is configured to update the usage data in response to data being stored within the data storage. The memory contains a datastore. The processor is configured to analyze the usage data to determine the number of the storage elements not containing data, store information within the datastore indicating the number of storage elements not containing data and read information from the data storage to determine whether the further data may be stored.